REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the thorough examination of the present application, as evidenced by the final Official Action. The final Official Action rejects all of the then pending claims, namely Claims 33-44 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,708,780 to Levergood et al., in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,819,285 to Damico et al. More particularly, the Official Action alleges that the Levergood patent discloses a method of managing information through an intermediary gateway device including the steps of receiving a request to communicate with a datastore having a network address, modifying the network address of the datastore (i.e., appending a session identifier (SID) to the datastore URL), and accessing the datastore through the intermediary gateway. While the Official Action concedes that the Levergood patent does not disclose modifying the network address of the datastore to reflect the address of the intermediary gateway device, the Official Action alleges that the Damico patent discloses modifying a particular network address to reflect the address from which a request originated.

In light of the final Official Action, Claims 45-56 have been added to further highlight patentable features of the present invention. As described below, however, Applicants respectfully submit that neither the Levergood nor the Damico patents, taken individually or in combination, teach or suggest the claimed invention of Claims 33-44, as alleged by the final Official Action. As such, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of Claims 33-44. Applicants therefore respectfully request reconsideration of this application in light of the CPA and this Preliminary Amendment, and allowance of all of the pending claims.

The Levergood patent discloses an Internet server access control and monitoring system. As disclosed, when a user selects a hypertext link to an access-controlled file, the server hosting the access-controlled file subjects the request to a secondary, authentication server, that determines whether the user has authorization to receive the access-controlled file. If the user has authorization, then, the user is provided with a session identification (SID) that allows the user to receive the access-controlled file. More particularly, with reference to FIG. 3 of the Levergood patent (reproduced below), a method for controlling access to a network server

includes a client (i.e., user) requesting an access-controlled page (CP) from a content server at step 3.

The content server, having determined that the request is to a controlled page and that the URL does not contain an SID, transmits a REDIRECT response to the client, as shown at step 4. In response to the REDIRECT response, at step 5, the browser of the client automatically sends a REDIRECT URL to an authentication server, where the REDIRECT URL requests authorization and an SID reflecting the same. The authentication server processes the REDIRECT, and if user credentials (CRED) are needed for authorization, requests and receives credentials (e.g., username and password) from the client, at steps 6 and 7. If a valid account exists for the user, the authentication server issues an SID, which authorizes access to the controlled page. Thereafter, the authentication server formulates a tagged URL including the address of the controlled page and the SID, and forwards the tagged URL to the client, which in turn, automatically forwards the tagged URL to the content server, at steps 8 and 9. In Step 10, the content server, upon validating the SID, transmits the requested controlled page to the client.
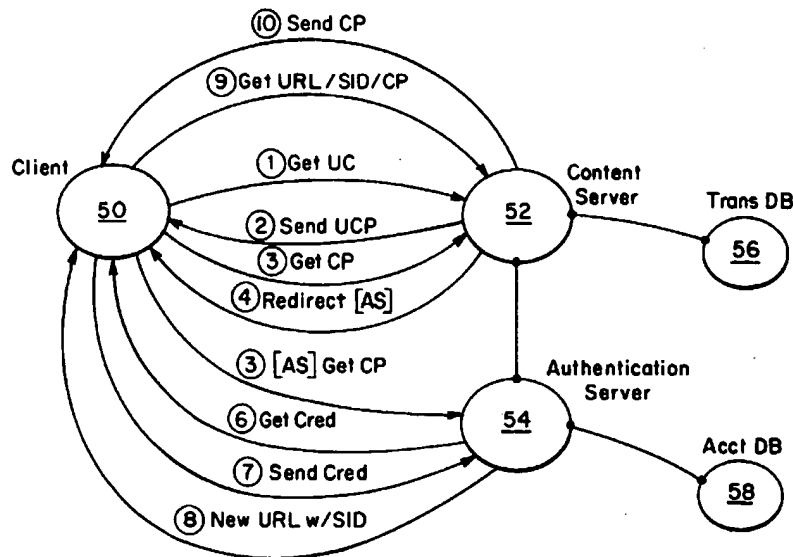

FIG. 3

The Damico patent discloses an apparatus for storing and processing co-marketing information associated with a user of an on-line computer service. As disclosed, a user accesses a WWW site 122a of a first co-marketer, where the WWW site 122a includes an advertisement

for an on-line service (OLS). By clicking on the advertisement, the WWW site 122a forms a destination uniform resource locator (URL) including a URL associated with the OLS, a destination file name, and a co-marketer symbol or code. Col. 5, ll. 27-45. In this regard, the co-marketer symbol or code uniquely represents the identity of the first co-marketer, and can be recognized by the OLS whenever the user connects to the OLS. *Id.* at ll. 2-8. After forming the destination URL, the user is routed from the WWW site 122a to the OLS WWW site 128. Upon reaching the OLS WWW site 128, the user is coupled to the OLS WWW site by solid line 126 (see FIG. 1). *Id.* at ll. 50-55. Thereafter, the OLS extracts the co-marketer symbol or code and stores an associated co-marketer identification code (CMID), along with subscription information for the user (if the user subscribes to the OLS). *Id.* at col. 8, ll. 25-29.

As recited by amended independent Claims 33, 35, 37, 39, 41-44, as well as new independent Claims 45, 47, 49, 51, 53-56, methods, computers, computer-readable mediums and apparatuses are provided for managing information. As recited, a request to communicate with a network-accessible datastore is received. Then, access is provided to the network-accessible datastore through an intermediary gateway device using a network address (URL) reflecting the address (URL) of the network-accessible datastore and the intermediary gateway device. In this regard, as recited by amended independent Claims 33, 35, 37 and 39, and new Claims 45, 47, 49 and 51, the URL of the network-accessible datastore is modified to reflect the address (URL) of the intermediary gateway device.

In contrast to the claimed invention of amended independent Claims 33, 35, 37, 39, 41-44, as well as new independent Claims 45, 47, 49, 51, 53-56, neither the Levergood patent nor the Damico patent, taken individually or in combination, teach or suggest providing access to a network-accessible datastore <u>through an intermediary gateway device</u>. With respect to the Levergood patent, even considering the authentication server as controlling access to the network-accessible datastore, access to the content server and the controlled page is not provided to the client through the authentication server. As shown in FIG. 3 above, after the client receives the tagged URL from the authentication server, access to the content server and the controlled page is provided <u>directly between the client and the content server</u> via transmissions of steps 9 and 10. In no event, however, do either of the transmissions of the requested content

of steps 9 and 10 proceed through the authentication server. As such, contrary to the allegation in the final Official Action, the Levergood patent does not teach or suggest providing access to a network-accessible datastore through the intermediary gateway device, as recited by amended independent Claims 33, 35, 37, 39, 41-44, as well as new independent Claims 45, 47, 49, 51, 53-56. More particularly, the Levergood patent does not teach or suggest providing access to the network-accessible datastore including transmitting information through the network-accessible datastore, as also recited by new independent Claims 45, 47, 49, 51, 53-56.

The Damico patent discloses a system and method for processing co-marketing information whereby a user selects an advertisement for an on-line service (OLS) from a co-marketer. The co-marketer then forms a destination URL to include a co-marketer symbol or code and the URL of an on-line service (OLS). The co-marketer forwards the destination URL to the OLS, and thereafter the user is provided access to and receives information from the OLS without going through the co-marketer, as shown by line 26 of FIG. 1. Further, as the system principally operates to capture and track a co-marketer source of new subscribers to an OLS, the system has no need to provide access to the OLS through the co-marketer after the OLS has captured the symbol or code for the co-marketer. In contrast to the claimed invention, then, the Damico patent does not teach or suggest providing access to a network-accessible datastore through an intermediary gateway device, as recited by amended independent Claims 33, 35, 37, 39, 41-44, as well as new independent Claims 45, 47, 49, 51, 53-56. More particularly, like the Levergood patent, the Damico patent does not teach or suggest providing access to the network-accessible datastore including transmitting information through the network-accessible datastore, as also recited by new independent Claims 45, 47, 49, 51, 53-56. And as neither the Levergood nor the Damico patents teach or suggest providing access to a network-accessible datastore through an intermediary gateway device, the combination of the Levergood and Damico patents likewise does not teach or suggest providing access to a network-accessible datastore through an intermediary gateway device.

Also in contrast to the claimed invention of amended independent Claims 33, 35, 37 and 39, and new independent Claims 45, 47, 49 and 51, and as recognized in the final Official Action, the Levergood patent does not teach or suggest modifying the particular network address

of the network-accessible datastore to reflect the address of the intermediary gateway device. Also, in contrast to amended independent Claims 41-44, and new independent Claims 53-56, the Levergood patent does not teach or suggest providing access to the network-accessible datastore using a network address that reflects the address of the intermediary gateway device. The Official Action alleges, however, that Damico patent discloses modifying a particular network address to reflect the address from which a request originated, and that it would have been obvious to combine the teachings of Levergood with Damico to teach the claimed invention. Applicants respectfully submit, however, that the Damico patent does not teach or suggest modifying a particular address to reflect the address of the co-marketer. Further, Applicants respectfully submit that, even if the Damico patent does teach modifying the particular address to reflect the address of the co-marketer, the teachings of the Damico patent cannot properly be combined with those of the Levergood patent to teach or suggest the claimed invention.

As indicated above and as disclosed by the Damico patent, a co-marketer WWW site forms a destination URL including a URL associated with the OLS, a destination file and a co-marketer symbol or code. In this regard, the destination URL does include the URL of the OLS, which may correspond to a network-accessible datastore. The destination URL does not include, however, an address of the co-marketer. Instead, the destination URL includes a destination file and a co-marketer symbol or code, neither of which reflects the address (URL) of the co-marketer. While it could be asserted that the co-marketer symbol or code reflects the address of the co-marketer, the Damico patent clearly defines the co-marketer symbol or code as uniquely representing the identity of the co-marketer such that the symbol or code can be recognized by the OLS whenever the user connects to the OLS. Damico '285 Patent, col. 5, ll. 2-8. Based upon the definition of the co-marketer symbol or code, then, the symbol or code does not reflect the address of the co-marketer, but instead identifies the co-marketer to the OLS. Also, considering that, as the Damico system principally operates to capture and track a co-marketer source of new subscribers to an OLS, the Damico system has no need to modify the destination URL to reflect the address of the co-marketer as opposed to a co-marketer symbol or code, particularly as some URL's can be quire cumbersome.

Even if the destination address given by the Damico system were considered to reflect the address of the co-marketer, and even if the co-marketer can be considered an intermediary gateway device, the Damico system does not teach or suggest forming the destination URL to reflect the URL of the intermediary gateway device, as described above and recited by new independent Claims 45, 47, 49, 51, 53-56. Further, even if the destination address given by the Damico system were considered to teach or suggest forming the destination URL to reflect the address or URL of the intermediary gateway device, and even if the Levergood patent were considered to disclose providing access to a network-accessible datastore through the intermediary gateway device, Applicants respectfully submit that the Levergood and Damico patents cannot properly be combined to teach or suggest the claimed invention of amended independent Claims 33, 35, 37, 39, 41-44, as well as new independent Claims 45, 47, 49, 51, 53-56.

More particularly, as the Levergood patent discloses modifying the address of the datastore to include an authentication identifier (i.e., SID), the method of the Levergood patent cannot properly be combined with the method of the Damico patent. In the Levergood patent, the authentication identifier is defined in one embodiment as including "a 32-bit digital signature, a 16-bit expiration date with a granularity of one hour, a 2-bit key identifier used for key management, an 8-bit domain comprising a set of information files to which the current SID authorizes access, and a 22-bit user identifier." Levergood '780 Patent, col. 5, ll. 56-61. To alter the Levergood method to modify the address of the datastore to reflect the address of the alleged intermediary gateway device (authentication server), as opposed to the SID, would render the Levergood method devoid of its intended purpose, to authenticate users requesting access to the datastore. Further, to alter the Levergood method to modify the address of the datastore to reflect the address of the intermediary gateway device would be to obviate the authentication process performed by the authentication server to generate the authentication identifier, as disclosed in the Levergood patent. Thus, the Levergood and Damico patents cannot properly be combined to teach or suggest the claimed invention.

Even if combined, however, Applicants respectfully submit that neither the Levergood nor the Damico patents, taken individually or in combination, teach or suggest the claimed

invention of amended independent Claims 33, 35, 37, 39, 41-44, as well as new independent Claims 45, 47, 49, 51, 53-56. Also, as original dependent Claims 34, 36, 38 and 40, as well as new dependent Claims 46, 48, 50 and 52, depend directly or indirectly from amended independent Claims 33, 35, 37, 39, 41-44, as well as new independent Claims 45, 47, 49, 51, 53-56, Applicants further respectfully submit that neither the Levergood nor the Damico patents, taken individually or in combination, teach or suggest the claimed invention of original dependent Claims 34, 36, 38 and 40, as well as new dependent Claims 46, 48, 50 and 52. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of Claims 33-44 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is overcome.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amended claims, new claims and the remarks presented above, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. As such, the issuance of a Notice of Allowance is therefore respectfully requested. In order to expedite the examination of the present application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney in order to resolve any remaining issues.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.
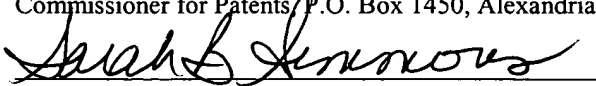
Respectfully submitted,

Andrew T. Spence
Registration No. 45,699

CUSTOMER NO. 00826
ALSTON & BIRD LLP
Bank of America Plaza
101 South Tryon Street, Suite 4000
Charlotte, NC 28280-4000
Tel Charlotte Office (704) 444-1000
Fax Charlotte Office (704) 444-1111

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Sarah B. Simmons

CLT01/4593700v1

Version With Markings to Show Changes Made:

In the Claims:

Claims 33, 35, 37, 39, 41-44 have been amended, and new Claims 45-56 have been added, as follows:

33. (Thrice Amended) A method for managing information using an intermediary gateway device having a corresponding network address, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a request to communicate with a network accessible datastore having a particular network address;

modifying the particular network address of the datastore to reflect the address of the intermediary gateway device; and

providing access to the network ~~addressable~~accessible datastore through the intermediary gateway device using the modified address of the network ~~addressable~~accessible datastore, wherein the intermediary gateway device controls the access to the network ~~addressable~~accessible datastore.

35. (Twice Amended) A computer for managing information using an intermediary gateway device having a corresponding network address, the computer comprising:

a memory having program instructions; and

a processor, responsive to the program instructions, configured to:

receive a request to communicate with a network accessible datastore having a particular network address;

modify the particular network address of the datastore to reflect the address of the intermediary gateway device; and

provide access to the network ~~addressable~~accessible datastore through the intermediary gateway device using the modified address of the network ~~addressable~~accessible datastore, wherein the intermediary gateway device controls the access to the network ~~addressable~~accessible datastore.

37. (Twice Amended) A computer-readable medium containing instructions for controlling a data processing system to perform a method for managing information using an intermediary gateway device having a corresponding network address, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a request to communicate with a network accessible datastore having a particular network address;

modifying the particular network address of the datastore to reflect the address of the intermediary gateway device; and

providing access to the network ~~addressable~~accessible datastore through the intermediary gateway device using the modified address of the network ~~addressable~~accessible datastore, wherein the intermediary gateway device controls the access to the network ~~addressable~~accessible datastore.

39. (Twice Amended) An apparatus for managing information using an intermediary gateway device having a corresponding network address, the apparatus comprising:

means for receiving a request to communicate with a network accessible datastore having a particular network address;

means for modifying the particular network address of the datastore to reflect the address of the intermediary gateway device; and

means for providing access to the network ~~addressable~~accessible datastore through the intermediary gateway device using the modified address of the network ~~addressable~~accessible datastore, wherein the intermediary gateway device controls the access to the network ~~addressable~~accessible datastore.

41. (Twice Amended) A computer-implemented method for managing information, the method comprising the steps of:

providing an intermediary gateway device for communicating with network accessible datastores;

receiving a request at the intermediary gateway device to communicate with a particular network accessible datastore having a corresponding network address; and

providing access to the particular network accessible datastore through the intermediary gateway device using a network address that reflects the address corresponding to the particular network ~~addressable~~accessible datastore and an address of the intermediary gateway device, wherein the intermediary gateway device controls the access to the particular network ~~addressable~~accessible datastore.

42.   (Twice Amended) A computer for managing information, the computer comprising:

a memory having program instructions; and

a processor, responsive to the program instructions, configured to:

provide an intermediary gateway device for communicating with network accessible datastores;

receive a request at the intermediary gateway device to communicate with a particular network accessible datastore having a corresponding network address; and

provide access to the particular network accessible datastore through the intermediary gateway device using a network address that reflects the address corresponding to the particular network ~~addressable~~accessible datastore and an address of the intermediary gateway device, wherein the intermediary gateway device controls the access to the particular network ~~addressable~~accessible datastore.

43.   (Twice Amended) A computer-readable medium containing instructions for controlling a data processing system to perform a method for managing information, the method comprising the steps of:

providing an intermediary gateway device for communicating with network accessible datastore;

receiving a request at the intermediary gateway device to communicate with a particular network accessible datastore having a corresponding network address; and

providing access to the particular network accessible datastore through the intermediary gateway device using a network address that reflects the address corresponding to the particular network ~~addressable~~accessible datastore and an address of the intermediary gateway device, wherein the intermediary gateway device controls the access to the particular network ~~addressable~~accessible datastore.

44.   (Twice Amended) An apparatus for managing information, the apparatus comprising;

means for providing an intermediary gateway device for communicating with network accessible datastores;

means for receiving a request at the intermediary gateway device to communicate with a particular network accessible datastore having a corresponding network address; and

means for providing access to the particular network accessible datastore through the intermediary gateway device using a network address that reflects the address corresponding to the particular network ~~addressable~~accessible datastore and an address of the intermediary gateway device, wherein the intermediary gateway device controls the access to the particular network ~~addressable~~accessible datastore.

45.   (New) A method for managing information using an intermediary gateway device having a corresponding Uniform Resource Locator (URL), the method comprising the steps of:

receiving, at the intermediary gateway device from a user access system, a request to communicate with a network accessible datastore having a particular URL;

modifying the particular URL of the datastore to reflect the URL of the intermediary gateway device; and

providing access to the network accessible datastore through the intermediary gateway device using the modified URL of the network accessible datastore, wherein providing access includes transmitting information through the intermediary gateway device.

46.   (New) The method of claim 45, wherein the modifying step further includes the substep of:

modifying the particular URL of the datastore to include the URL of the intermediary gateway device.

47.   (New) A computer for managing information using an intermediary gateway device having a corresponding Uniform Resource Locator (URL), the computer comprising:

a memory having program instructions; and

a processor, responsive to the program instructions, configured to:

receive, from a user access system, a request to communicate with a network accessible datastore having a particular URL;

modify the particular URL of the datastore to reflect the RUL of the intermediary gateway device; and

provide access to the network accessible datastore through the intermediary gateway device using the modified URL of the network accessible datastore, wherein providing access includes transmitting information through the intermediary gateway device.

48.   (New) The computer of claim 47, wherein the processor is further configured to:

modify the particular URL of the datastore to include the URL of the intermediary gateway device.

49.   (New) A computer-readable medium containing instructions for controlling a data processing system to perform a method for managing information using an intermediary gateway device having a corresponding Uniform Resource Locator (URL), the method comprising the steps of:

receiving, from a user access system, a request to communicate with a network accessible datastore having a particular URL;

modifying the particular URL of the datastore to reflect the URL of the intermediary gateway device; and

providing access to the network accessible datastore through the intermediary gateway device using the modified URL of the network accessible datastore, wherein providing access includes transmitting information through the intermediary gateway device.

50.   (New) The method of claim 49, wherein the modifying step further includes the substep of:

modifying the particular URL of the datastore to include the URL of the intermediary gateway device.

51.   (New) An apparatus for managing information using an intermediary gateway device having a corresponding Uniform Resource Locator (URL), the apparatus comprising:

means for receiving, from a user access system, a request to communicate with a network accessible datastore having a particular URL;

means for modifying the particular URL of the datastore to reflect the URL of the intermediary gateway device; and

means for providing access to the network accessible datastore through the intermediary gateway device using the modified URL of the network accessible datastore, wherein providing access includes transmitting information through the intermediary gateway device.

52.   (New) The apparatus of claim 51, wherein the modifying means further includes:

means for modifying the particular URL of the datastore to include the URL of the intermediary gateway device.

53.   (New) A computer-implemented method for managing information, the method comprising the steps of:

providing an intermediary gateway device for communicating with network accessible datastores;

receiving, from a user access system, a request at the intermediary gateway device to communicate with a particular network accessible datastore having a corresponding Uniform Resource Locator (URL); and

providing access to the particular network accessible datastore through the intermediary gateway device using a URL that reflects the URL corresponding to the particular network accessible datastore and a URL of the intermediary gateway device, wherein providing access includes transmitting information through the intermediary gateway device.

54.   (New) A computer for managing information, the computer comprising:

a memory having program instructions; and

a processor, responsive to the program instructions, configured to:

provide an intermediary gateway device for communicating with network accessible datastores;

receive, from a user access system, a request at the intermediary gateway device to communicate with a particular network accessible datastore having a corresponding Uniform Resource Locator (URL); and

provide access to the particular network accessible datastore through the intermediary gateway device using a URL that reflects the URL corresponding to the particular network accessible datastore and a URL of the intermediary gateway device, wherein providing access includes transmitting information through the intermediary gateway device.

55.   (New) A computer-readable medium containing instructions for controlling a data processing system to perform a method for managing information, the method comprising the steps of:

providing an intermediary gateway device for communicating with network accessible datastore;

receiving, from a user access system, a request at the intermediary gateway device to communicate with a particular network accessible datastore having a corresponding Uniform Resource Locator (URL); and

providing access to the particular network accessible datastore through the intermediary gateway device using a URL that reflects the URL corresponding to the particular network accessible datastore and a URL of the intermediary gateway device, wherein providing access includes transmitting information through the intermediary gateway device.

56. (New) An apparatus for managing information, the apparatus comprising;

means for providing an intermediary gateway device for communicating with network accessible datastores;

means for receiving, from a user access system, a request at the intermediary gateway device to communicate with a particular network accessible datastore having a corresponding Uniform Resource Locator (URL); and

means for providing access to the particular network accessible datastore through the intermediary gateway device using a URL that reflects the URL corresponding to the particular network accessible datastore and a URL of the intermediary gateway device, wherein providing access includes transmitting information through the intermediary gateway device.